



**File Code:** 1950  
**Date:** April 22, 2019

Dear Planning Participant:

The Sitka Ranger District of the Tongass National Forest has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) for the Stream Restoration Using Hand Tools project. The objective of the project is to help restore anadromous and resident fish streams that have been impaired by past forest management practices. The proposed action will target streams and their riparian areas that were harvested prior to the Tongass Timber Reform Act, which requires no-cut stream buffers. All work will occur using hand tools with the goal to restore and stabilize fish habitat by building structures within the channels and floodplains of the identified streams using logs and trees. This project would not use heavy equipment in the streams or riparian zone. The responsible official for this project is the Sitka District Ranger, Perry Edwards.

The EA and supporting information are located on the project website at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=55290>. The EA is located under the "Project Documents - Assessment" heading.

For more information about this project or to request a hard copy, please contact: Chris Leeseberg, Fish and Wildlife Biologist/Team Lead at (907) 747-6671 or at [christopher.leeseberg@usda.gov](mailto:christopher.leeseberg@usda.gov).

### **How to Comment and Timeframe**

Comments will be considered at any time, however, to be eligible to object, individuals and organizations must meet the information requirements of 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B. It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close of the comment period. Only those who submit timely and specific written comments regarding the proposed project during a public comment period established by the responsible official are eligible to file an objection under part 218.

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, and electronic comments concerning this proposed project will be accepted for 30 calendar days following the publication of this notice in the *Daily Sitka Sentinel*, the newspaper of record for the Sitka Ranger Districts. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this analysis. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. The regulations prohibit extending the length of the comment period.

Comments should be within the scope of the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and must include supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider. Persons who wish to be eligible for objections must provide the following information: name and address; title of the proposed project; specific written comments; and signature or other verification of identity upon request. Comments received, including the names and



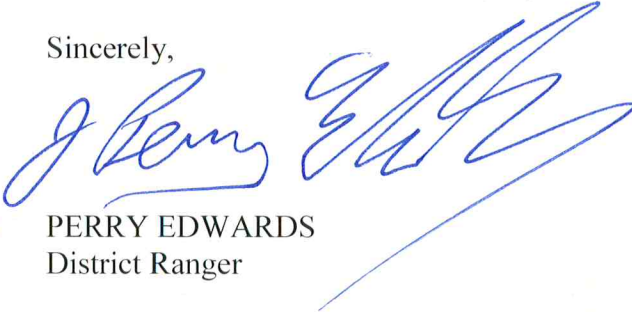
addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposal and will be available for public review. Other requirements to be eligible to submit an objection are listed at 36 CFR 218.25(a)(3). It is the responsibility of the sender to ensure timely receipt of any comments submitted. For objection eligibility each individual or representative from each entity submitting timely and specific written comments regarding the proposed project must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request.

Specific written comments for the Responsible Official may be submitted to: [comments-alaska-tongass-sitka@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-alaska-tongass-sitka@fs.fed.us) with "Stream Restoration Using Hand Tools" in the subject line. Comments can also be faxed (907-747-4253) or mailed to Chris Leeseberg, Fish and Wildlife Biologist/Team Leader, 2108 Halibut Point Road, Sitka, AK 99835.

Business hours for hand delivered comments are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays. Electronic comments shall be in a format that is compatible with the current version of MS Word.

Thank you for your interest in the project.

Sincerely,



PERRY EDWARDS  
District Ranger